MAT-SU MONITOR
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA COLLEGE
November 2010

Mat-Su College Meets the Candidates

By Jake Magoon

Mat-su Monitor

By the start of the Candidates' Forum on the late afternoon of October 21, nearly every seat provided for the audience was full in a true showing of democracy in action. The candidates arrived punctually, wasting no time addressing the mass of concerned citizenry. Some comments were clearly strategic, complimenting the younger females in the audience on their smiles and striking up conversation with this reporter on a topic concerning the firing by National Public Radio of Juan Williams. Of the nine candidates for Valley legislative offices (five are running an opposed), four acted as leading examples to their effervescent constituents and appeared at the forum. John B. Coghill, Charlie Huggins, Bonnie Nelson, and Carl J. Gatto deemed a showing at Mat-Su College worth their time. Incumbents Bill Stohlz, Wes Keller, and Mark A. Neuman along with two candidates for the seat being vacated by John Harris, Bert L. Cottle and Eric A. Feige, had business elsewhere.

Open to the community, the format followed a simple procedure: During weeks prior, students had the opportunity to submit questions in anonymous drop-boxes, or deliver them to Professor Pete Praetorius. With the inevitable jokes and illegible questions removed, the questions were then stored for later random drawing. Each candidate received time for opening statements, followed by a period where each candidate responded to the aforementioned randomly drawn student questions, followed by closing statements. Finally, a short period of unscripted questions from the audience took place.

» See the Candidates **Page 5**

Getting Acquainted with Director Talis Colberg

By Bradley Lucas

Mat-Su Monitor

As most of you know, Mat-Su College has a new director this semester, Dr. Talis J. Colberg. Although he is new to the position of director, he is well known and greatly loved by the student body as well as many of the staff and faculty at the college. Dr. Colberg has been involved with Mat-Su College since he attended Palmer High School in the 1970s working as a part-time math tutor for former director Alvin S. Okeson (for which the Okeson Library Building is named). He also took two history classes at the college while still in high school. During this same time, he won a national scholarship by writing a paper on the revolutionary war for which he conducted his research at the Mat-Su College library.

Even though Dr. Colberg has deep roots with Mat-Su College, his roots with Alaska and the Valley in particular go even further back, as his grandparents first moved to Alaska in 1949.

» See director Talis Colberg **Page 5**

Rain Makes for Tough Farming in 2010

By Torie Gunderson

Mat-su Monitor

Between all the rain and lack of sunshine, local farmers had a struggle to keep up with the demands of customers and what their plants would actually produce this year. Palmer farmer, Arthur Keyes states "There is no way to say how bad this year was." With all the rain, few plants excelled this year and farmers had to work extra hard to bring to market what little they brought. Keyes described a normal year of farming to be compared to working 40 hours a week and bringing home $1000 each week. This year, however, was as if the farmers had a 60 hour work week and only received $100 in return.

» See farming 2010 **Page 3**

Emergency Preparedness Fair

By Traci Watts

On September 18, 2010 the Mat-Su College campus hosted The Emergency Preparedness Fair. The event included multiple booths that related to emergency readiness, and families and individuals alike enjoyed the varieties offered.

Don Warble, with Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), was one of the demonstrators. His booth showed all the supplies a family of four would need to survive a week without electricity and running water. He passed out fliers with the recommended items listed. The supplies all fit nice and snug in a 20x30 inches plastic tub that could be easily stored in a garage or a closet. Everyone should be prepared in case of an emergency. Remember, when packing your own supplies, you can substitute things that your family eats. Do not pack perishables.

After learning about what supplies you need to have available in case of an emergency, my son and I next attended a demonstration that explained what to do incase of an earthquake. There was a "quake house," were individuals were belted into a car seat inside a model of a house. The house would then begin to shake, simulating an earthquake. This was to give the individual an idea of what to expect during actual an earthquake.

My son's favorite booth was the "germ highlighter box". It would illuminate all the germs on your hands when you put them inside box. My son, Joshua, still keeps asking where the germs went when we removed our hands. I said, "Hopefully they go down the sink when we wash our hands."

Farming 2010

Continued from cover

This summer's harvesting started out later than normal as the warm sunshine wasn't very abundant. In Palmer, farmers were reportedly between two weeks and a month and a half behind the normal farming schedule. Harvesting typically begins anywhere between the 2nd and 4th week in June and apparently some farmers didn't start taking vegetables to the markets until the first week in August.

Because this was such a wet summer, farmers didn't have as many healthy producing vegetables. According to Mark Rempel, owner of Rempel Family Farm, "There were a few things like peas, beans, and squash that struggled this summer because of all the rain." Reportedly, the squash produced about 50% of what it would on a sunny year. Rempel attributed this to all the rain, and stated "It was too rainy and the bees couldn't get out and pollinate." But not all farming this year was negative; apparently this was a good year for potatoes and carrots. These two vegetables were reported to have grown fantastically and to have excelled in the environment. In addition to carrots and potatoes, Rempel reported that his cabbage faired quite well considering all the rain we got this year.

So, what is the overall view of this past farming year? We've certainly seen better, but there have been worse summers. From Rempel's perspective, "This was an okay summer, if we can get it all in." And get it all in he just might, provided the weather holds long enough to harvest the remaining carrots in his fields. Even though this past summer wasn't a good year for every vegetable, look on the bright side: at least the carrots and potatoes produced well. So, local produce consumers- I hope you like carrots and potatoes; they are in abundance this year.

College Wins 2nd Place in State Fair Parade

By Shana Ellington

Mat-Su College won second place this year in this year's State Fair parade. The theme of the parade was "Imagine If…," and the results are posted on the Palmer Chamber of Commerce website as well as the Mat-Su College Facebook page. We had over 30 children participate; wearing 80s style clothing, to match the genre of our song "Future So Bright" by TimBuk 3. The college's new Assistant Director, Bryan MacLean and current students dressed up in career wear. You can find photos and a video of the parade on our Facebook, YouTube, and Myspace pages. Special thanks to all the staff, students, and future students that came out to support the college by passing out information, dancing in the streets, and handing out candy. It was a great event to get the word about what we do at the college and I'm sure we surprised our new Director, Dr. Talis Colberg, with all of our enthusiasm.

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Now hiring Math Adjunct Faculty!

Mat-Su College is looking for experienced applicants to teach various math courses for the Spring 2011 semester and beyond.

Math adjunct posting #: 0060738

Check out the other credit & non-credit adjunct recruitments we have posted on UAKJobs.com!

Art Models Needed!

The Mat-Su College Fine Arts Department is seeking applicants for art model positions for a variety of art classes that will be taught for Spring 2011 semester.

Art model posting#: 0060259

How to Apply for a job @ MSC

Visit www.matsu.alaska.edu & select "Employment" link
Select UAKJobs.com to access all MSC job postings
Create your online job profile and application
Apply for a new and dynamic career!

Need assistance? Call Andrea Andrews, HRS Coordinator at 745-9725

The University of Alaska is an equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational institution. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applicants needing reasonable accommodation to participate in the application and screening process should contact the Mat-Su College Human Resource Services Coordinator at (907) 745-9725

A Message from Director Talis Colberg

Director's Message:

If you were to peer down through the clouds from the top of Pioneer Peak at night you would survey a sea of lights with a dark spot in the center, which in turn is illuminated by a small set of buildings in the middle. That vision is the Matanuska-Susitna College which sits on a thousand acres of primeval Alaskan wilderness, which in turn is surrounded by the fastest growing community in Alaska.

Nearly 2,000 students attend classes in a modern and expanding facility. The students come here to transform their dreams into realities. An energetic and talented faculty and staff work hard to create a positive atmosphere to facilitate the development of scholars and workers for the future of Alaska. There are few places in the world as majestic as this valley. There are few universities as affordable as this school. The Matanuska-Susitna Campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage is the gem in the statewide system of higher education. We welcome new students and visitors and look forward to many years of growth and opportunity in this borough.

Come visit our campus. Enroll in our classes. We are here for you.

Dr. Talis J. Colberg
College Director

Wolf Cards Come to Mat-Su

By: Andrew Loeb

For those of us that have visited the UAA campus in Anchorage may have taken note of the card swiping machines that are attached to the vending machines. They use debit, credit, and even UAA WOLFcards. That's right, you read that correctly. You may have also heard the news that the library will be charging students to make copies. How are the two related?

Circulation Services Director Jo Didiano explained that at the beginning of November, students will begin to be charged for their copies. When students choose to print, they will have to swipe their WOLFcard in order for the program to allow printing. This may seem off-putting to some students, but this is used to combat the abuse of the printing services offered by the library. Don't be discouraged, though; every student paid a fee at the beginning of the semester and has $10.00 credited to their account when the system goes into place.

We may have all seen the new machine in the library and inquired to its purpose. It will be used to replenish our account and make more copies. There are even plans for adding the card devices to the vending machines and even in our cafeteria for purchasing food.

We're all students of the UAA system and it makes sense to put us all on the same system. These changes should be looked upon positively by the students and welcome them. Oh, and make sure you hold on to your new card. Your first one is free, but a replacement is $5.00.

Interview with Bryan MacLean (Assistant College Director)

By: Emily Pedersen

Bryan MacLean is not new to Alaska. He attended Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He also worked for the Department of Fish and Game in Glennallen.

Recently, he was living in New Zealand for 10 years where he worked for the Tertiary Sector

Mr. MacLean decided to move back to Alaska because he missed his grandchildren and the Alaskan lifestyle and environment. His plans for MSC are to apply his experience to support the director's vision for achieving the college's mission. He has a strong student centered focus, especially on success. Mr. MacLean is interested in how the college can continue to meet the educational needs of the community.

(Assistant Director Bryan Pedersen. Photo by Hattie Schmidtkunz)

The Mat-Su Monitor Wants You!

If you would like an outlet for your writing look no further! The Mat-Su Monitor is looking for writers who would like to see their work published.

For more information about how you can get involved contact Dr. Pete Praetorius.

matsumonitor@gmail.com (907) 745-9728

Mat-Su College Meets the Candidates

Continued from cover

The moderator of the forum was student body President, Jeremiah Coley.

Now, let us meet the candidates. Each candidate chose to describe his or herself in an expectedly unique fashion. John B. Coghill, Alaska State Senator from district F seeking re-election, described himself as the newest member of the valley delegation, representing the North Pole for twelve years as a representative, and an air force veteran with experience teaching history and running a small business. Coghill's declared mission amounted to standing up for constituents, to be not a demander of respect, but a commander of respect, declaring that we must be a producer society as well as a consumer society. Declaring that we Alaskans live in a land of plenty, Coghill called for responsible development.

Sen. Charlie Huggins, incumbent representing rural Mat-Su/Chugiak, presented his image as that of first and foremost, a family man, citing his wife and informing us that, "The most awesome responsibility is to raise your child.". He would later go on to describe his pride in his identification as a Republican, as a good listener, and cited his predictable voting record as proof of his integrity. Framing the argument for his re-election, Huggins reminded the audience that, "We were so close to the 1929 stock market crash," that we were "…near economic collapse,", and that there is, "a lot at stake."

Challenger Bonnie Nelson of Chugiak, 44-year Alaska resident, self-described bipartisan Libertarian-Democrat, anti-marijuana prohibition and supporter of better legal services for families, is a first time candidate. Presenting herself as an underdog with little money and name recognition, Nelson's argument demanded term limits for politicians, enhanced citizen governance, and public finance to help restrict the flow of special-interest money into our political process via campaign contributions. She was the sole candidate to criticize Joe Miller's policy proposals. Her opponent is Bill Stohlz, who was absent.

Lastly, Carl J. Gatto is a District 13 Palmer Representative who, making an argument via gratitude, quickly informed the audience that, "Every square inch of this land, I got for you." After chiding the youth for supporting the healthcare reform bill, Carl took out his pocket constitution and declared, "…do all you want, have a beer! As long as it's legal"; though he later took a stand against ending marijuana prohibition. Asked the origin of the universe, Carl cited his background in science and answered with such certainty that it was the Big Bang that he had extra time left over. His quote of the day: "My biggest fear is the federal government", with much of his argument stemming from that viewpoint.

This forum provided a rare opportunity to meet our representatives, with many pressing concerns raised. Shortly before the event ended, however, the audience raised a question that may stand out as the one on everyone's mind: "When will we stop being known as Valley Trash?" Alas, the answer to that question remained inconclusive.

Getting Acquainted with Director Talis Colberg

Continued from cover

Dr. Colberg is a third generation Valley resident who is currently living in the house in which he was raised as a child located approximately two miles from the campus. Although he left the state after graduating high school to attend Pacific Lutheran University in Washington State where he received his undergraduate degree in history, and later Pepperdine University in Southern California where he received his law degree, he would return to his roots in the Last Frontier to set up his law practice in Palmer and pursue his love of history in the form of obtaining a Ph. D in Alaska history from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Dr. Colberg returned to Mat-Su College to teach his first history class around 1992, and has been teaching ever since with one exception during his term as Attorney General. Even now, as the director of the college, he is continuing to teach two history classes this semester. Dr. Colberg is also involved with the Alaska Humanities Forum, which is the channel by which national funds are allocated to the advancement of the humanities across the state in the form of classes and programs.

When I asked Dr. Colberg what the motivation was behind his wanting to become the next director of Mat-Su College, he told me that he felt it would be something he would always regret not trying. He said that he had always loved the academic world, and this provided the perfect opportunity for him to fully transition from law into academia. "Not many people get to do their dream job" he said.

Despite Dr. Colberg's various commitments around campus, he has a very active life outside of the college. I discovered that Dr. Colberg is a man of many affinities and talents. He informed me that he loves to sketch, and he takes sketch books with him wherever he goes for, as he put it, "if you sketch something, you notice the details a lot more." I was so fortunate as to be shown one of his sketch books, which was full of beautiful renderings of various places around the Valley and even the campus. I was shown, however, that Dr. Colberg isn't the only artist in his family, as he informed me that the various paintings around his office had been painted by members of his family including his oldest daughter, wife, and father. Dr. Colberg also has an orchard and his own apple press from which he makes his own apple juice, and, although victory has been elusive, he enjoys entering the giant cabbage contest at the Alaska State Fair every year.

There has been a lot of change in the University of Alaska hierarchy recently, but I can say that I confidently believe that Mat-Su College will continue to grow and thrive under the directorship of Dr. Talis Colberg. I know that I speak for many students, faculty, and staff when I say that I look forward to having Dr. Colberg lead Mat-Su College onward and upward to better and brighter things in the years to come.

Carbon Crew Gets Dirty

By David Johnson

Our big 350.org Global Work Party event on 10/10/10 was a huge success. We collected over 750 pounds of trash, learned about invasive weeds, and planted thousands of Alaska native flowering plant seeds. Our story was picked up by CBS Channel 11 KTVA and they came out to shoot the story. It was broadcast on the news at 5:00 and 10:00 on 10/10/10. We also achieved points in the Great Power Race and are currently in 3rd place against nearly 1000 campuses in China, India, and the United States. To find out more come to a meeting of the Mat-Su Carbon Crew.

Our Palmer, Alaska group photo was included in the photo marketing package of 350.org, the world event coordinators.

Mat-Su Monitor would like to thank the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman for all of their support.

Call (907) 352-2250 to learn about home delivery.

MAT-SU MONITOR

Managing Editor
Traci Steele
Media Advisor
Dr. Pete Praetorius
Layout and Design
Bryce Hyslip
Advertising
Kathryn Derendinger
Printer
Frontiersman

The Dichotomy of Math

By William (Fat Dan) Chapman

"OMG! Math? I hate math!"

Yes, some of us love to hate math. It is a subject that we all have pondered over for many weary hours. Ironically, the reasons we hate math are the same reasons we love math. "Love math?" Yes, love math, not like "Oh Math, I love thee, let me count the ways, 1, 1,1…" Well, then how can we love and hate math and why? These questions we will examine and see if we can sum up some acceptable answers.

Math is much simpler than concepts of constant quantitative ratios with enumerative variables. Language, unlike math, changes with the times; over time words can take on whole new meanings. Let's take a quick glance at American English and Latin. Latin is considered a dead language because it no longer changes. American English, on the other hand, changes every year, adding new words, to keep up with the ever-changing slang. American English diverges even further from region to region, state to state, job to job, school to school, and sometimes even from household to household. To me, it is hard keeping up with all the American English slang and jargon, more so than keeping up with Math's few rules and identities.

Since antiquity, math's answers have never changed. Two plus two has always been four. The only change in math, perhaps, has been the way we get to the answer. So we can say there are only two constants in the universe "change and math" yet math changes everything. Don't fool yourself by saying, "Why take math? I'll never use it anyway." On the contrary, we always use math from figuring out how much our paychecks will be to calculating how many minutes we have left on our cell phones to text. So we all have a love-hate relationship with math.

Math is so frustrating when the answers avoid the pen, yet when the paper finally unfurls the correct answers, math is exhilarating. Then we have learned something, and we can find comfort in knowing that it will never change. We don't learn from things we know. We learn from our mistakes. Therefore, if we are not making mistakes, we are not learning. Dwelling on mistakes only leads to frustration – so don't dwell, learn. If I have any advice, it would be, "Just relax, have fun and try to keep in mind there is a method to their 'Mathness.' Once we can speak fluent math, like our mentors, we will have the keys to change the universe."

Dr. Fox D. (Mat-Su English Department) was consulted for this story.

Designer Discusses Trends with Art Students

Karolyn Spangnolo, owner of Spangnolo Design, was on campus in late September to discuss color and design trends for 2010-2011 in residential, healthcare, retail, and commercial settings. According to Spangnolo, gray is the biggest color of the year. (Right: Pictures of the event)

Constitution Day Contest

By Kim bloomstrom

In recognition of September 17's Constitution Day observation, Mat-Su College invited students to participate in a contest involving a quiz about the Constitution. Congratulations to Rachel Hamman, a second year student at Mat-Su College who was this year's winner.

In 2005, the Department of Education's Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement in conjunction with Congressional legislation implemented Constitution and Citizenship Day. The law stipulates that any educational institutions receiving Federal funding must hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year.

In keeping with the federal mandates, Mat-Su College Student Services designed a display aimed at providing students with fascinating facts about the Constitution and the founding fathers who were instrumental in its formation. Among the stories learned were things such as Benjamin Franklin's favor of the turkey over the American Eagle as the national bird and, that in 1893, Congress proposed an amendment (but never ratified it) that the United States Army and Navy be abolished. Students were also given the opportunity to take a quiz that encouraged them to learn more about their Constitution. All students who participated were given The U.S. Constitution and Fascinating Facts about It, an interesting booklet that is replete with information about the Constitution and its writers.

The Constitution Day quiz attracted many participants. All students who answered 80% of the questions correctly were placed in a drawing for a chance to win a three credit tuition waiver for the spring 2011 semester. At the October 6 Student Government meeting, Rachel Hamman was drawn as the contest winner. Student Services would like to applaud Rachel on a job well done and thank all of our students who participated in the contest. We are already beginning to make plans for next year's Constitution Day, and we look forward to having many more participants in the events that are being planned.

(Pictured: Karolyn Spangnolo, owner of Spangnolo Design)

Valley Performing Arts' Pride and Prejudice: A Review

By: Sean Talbot

Twice in three days I saw Kelly Larson's adaptation of Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' at the Valley Performing Arts theatre, and twice in three days I saw two completely different performances of the same play. As if the audience were the actors' lifeblood, the Friday, 10 September premiere took on a whole new dynamic unparalleled to the dress rehearsal just two nights prior.

A perfectly condescending Mr. Darcy (Jason Marvel) and the sharp-tongued Elizabeth Bennet (Britta Hanson) form the backbone of this classic love story with their stubborn and cheeky courtship, and the audience may sometimes have found itself wondering when Lizzie and Darcy will be back on stage for that reason. It was, however, the chemical reaction that occurred on stage between Danielle Lewis and Calvin Turcott (Elizabeth's sister, Jane, and Mr. Bingley, respectively) that took the heart of the show with a subtlety that fit well with the story, but also radiated a magic all their own.

The insufferable Mrs. Bennet, played with genuinely ridiculous charm by Stephanie Berta, spent much of the story frantically trying to marry off her five daughters to rich bachelors, while the ever caring and 'mere' Mr. Bennet (Steve Brown) did all he could to do the same – outside of his wife's earshot.

DJ Rotach, who gave the dastardly Mr. Collins a wickedly absurd quality, "goes so over the top," said director Kelly Larson, "that sometimes I have to rein him back in." Rotach didn't overdo his character to the point of exhaustion—however, he accomplished the noble task of being completely repulsive to everyone in the theatre; most effectively his cousin, the strong-willed Elizabeth Bennet, to whom he ardently offered his hand in marriage. It was a truly hilarious scene as the toadish clergyman professed his desire for her, and in her rejection he saw traits in her he very soon came to fear.

Every member of the cast made the most of their characters, particularly the role of Catherine de Bourgh (Arlie Reed-Lewis), who, in one scene, asserted both her stuffy high-society influence and childish immaturity. The excitable Lydia Bennet, played by Rachel Clark (who, according to her bio, is a trained koala wrangler from the outback), also made quite a splash.

Pride and Prejudice ran through 3 October at the Machetanz Theatre in Wasilla (251 W. Swanson Ave).

Valley Performing Arts' next production, Blithe Spirit, will run from 22 October to 7 November – same place. At the time of writing, I haven't heard anything about it yet, but given the quality of most shows the VPA puts on, you won't want to miss it. Call 373-0195 for ticket information.

Congratulations, Gary Ellis!

Mat-Su College student Gary Ellis is the recipient of the 1st Dr. Ping-Tung Chang Scholarship Fund, 2010, for $1,000

The Dr. Ping-Tung Chang Scholarship Fund was established in 2002 by a group of students wishing to honor mathematics professor Dr. Ping-Tung Chang. The students have worked tirelessly to achieve endowed status for this fund. The current balance is around $36,000 of the final goal of $100,000.

Art Club Officers

TEAM ART OFFICERS F-2010

LEFT TO RIGHT
Kari Peters, President
Aisha Peters, Vice President
Misty Vanlue, Secretary
Barbara Peters, Treasurer
Professor Suzanne Bach, Faculty Advisor
Professor John Barton, Adjunct Faculty Advisor

U.S. Flag Display

Matanuska-Susitna College
University of Anchorage Alaska
MSC is pleased to display the evolution of the American flag from early 1700 to the present. Veterans Day Thursday Nov. 11, 2010 from 11:30-4:00 PM (Immediately following the Program at the Veterans Memorial on Trunk Road.) Located in the Upstairs Gallery on Campus. This display is on loan from the Army National Guard and the United States Government.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Fred & Sara Machetanz Building
Mile 2 Trunk Road
Suzanne Bach, Fine Arts Coordinator 745-9755

Art Students Keeping Busy

Fall students in Professor Bach's Art Appreciation Class participate in "hands on activities" such as Sumi-e` (oriental painting), printmaking and watercolor. (Left/ Right)

Movie Reviews

The Summer of Jay Baruchel

By: Andrew Loeb

If you went to the theatre this summer, you probably at least saw a poster of one of the many movies starring Jay Baruchel. She's Out of My League, How to Train Your Dragon, and The Sorcerer's Apprentice, all starred Jay Baruchel in many different roles.

She's Out of My League

Genre: Romantic Comedy

She's Out of My League set Jay Baruchel, as Kirk, an unnoticeable TSA agent, opposite Alice Eve, as Molly, a party planner. We join Kirk as he decides to get back with his girlfriend, Marnie (Lindsay Sloane). He completely disregards her having moved on, but still tries in vain to get back with her. Kirk's friends try to talk him out of it because they feel he can do better than her. He disagrees until a chance encounter with a lost cell-phone—Molly's cell-phone. Kirk spends his time trying to convince himself that Molly doesn't like him while Molly continues her pursuit of Kirk.

Stainer (TJ Miller), Kirk's best friend, explains how Molly could never be into him because of the number rating system. Kirk is a 5; Molly is a 10. "You can't make a relationship jump more than 2 ranks. It just can't work." Or can it?

This movie is done very well and has a lot going for it. The cast fits their roles very well. Jay is a scrawny, nerdy-looking city boy. Alice is the typical blonde-bombshell. Jay's family is dysfunctional and Molly's is traditional. Nothing about those two families should work well together. However, that makes for the best comedic interaction. The comedy is well done and the romance flows smoothly. The only concern I have with this movie is a scene with obsessive swearing. It felt unnecessary and detracted somewhat from the idea of the film, but it gave insight into Kirk's family.

Comedy: 9/10 Romance: 8/10 Story: 8/10 Character: 9/10 Replay: Medium-High

How to Train Your Dragon

Genre: Animated Adventure Comedy

How to Train Your Dragon puts Jay Baruchel in a… different role. He plays Hiccup, the son of the Chief of the Dwarves. Unfortunately, he doesn't embody the blood line of the Dwarven chiefs. He is constantly looked down upon for his smaller size and he's constantly referred to as a general hand gesture to which his response is, "… but you gestured to all of me."

There are high expectations for Hiccup. He is placed in the arena to see whether or not he will make it as a dwarven soldier. Throughout the training, through accident and lucky circumstance, he made it through. The other trainee's felt cheated because he showed no true skill. That is, until he finds an injured dragon. It takes all he has and… while it isn't much, it grows into something that rivals how much people didn't believe in him to begin with.

This movie was incredible. I wanted to see it again and again. The story was well thought out and there is potentially a connection between people in the audience and characters in the movie. I didn't see any true flaws in the movie and it couldn't be any better. I would definitely recommend to everyone that likes this type of movie to see it… then see it again.

Animation: 10/10 Action: 10/10 Adventure: 10/10 Character: 10/10 Story: 10/10 Replay: High

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Genre: Adventure Romance Comedy

The final film we see Jay Baruchel in is the Sorcerer's Apprentice. He plays Dave, (how much more common of a name you can get?), a physics geek. He finds that he is part of the long line of Merlinian's that have the power to use magic without use of an item. The story is how Dave learns to use magic from an apprentice of Merlin, Balthazar Blake. What makes this movie different is that instead of this just being a lesson in magic, Dave has to fend off attacks from enemies of the Merlinians. This all couldn't come at worse time because he finally reunited with a girl he liked from elementary school.

I read a few reviews about the movie and they all compared this to the original Mickey Mouse Sorcerer's Apprentice. I have not seen it myself, but I was familiar with the "self-washing tools." This scene appears in both versions, and, in both, they were quite hilarious.

This was my favorite movie of the summer by every stretch of the imagination. It had everything that I look for: good characters, good plot, good adventure, and most of all, a good romance. The characters fill their roles immaculately. The plot had no holes. And I wanted to watch it over and over again.

Action: 10/10 Adventure: 10/10 Comedy: 10/10 Character: 10/10 Romance: 10/10 Story: 10/10 Replay: Very High

Rough Stuff

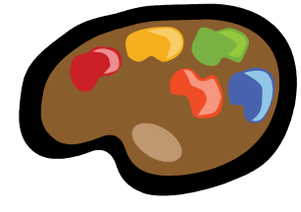
Opening Reception
Upstairs Gallery
Wed/Thu October 20th-21st
12:00-1:00

On display from Oct 20-Nov 4

Mid-semester "showoffs" get their rough sketches, paintings, and photos tacked up for a "salon show" — frames not required. Artwork may be studies or roughs of future masterpieces.

Instructors have student work delivered October 14 through 19
Fill out art record forms at drop off. Volunteers needed.

745-9655



Best Bands Flee State

By: Sean Talbot

How often does it happen that a band forms itself in Alaska, creates a decent sound and gains as large a fan base as our relatively meager population can provide – before bounding off to Portland, Seattle, San Diego, or some other far-off city that is much easier to make a living as a musician than in Anchorage? Too often, or not enough?

Sometimes, they even make it – which is great. Everyone here can then tell stories to each other of arbitrary relations they had to the artist. It makes for plentiful and enthusiastic hotbox conversation.

On September 24th former local hip hoppers Indefinate Etticate made their final appearance in Alaska – for now – before heading off to Seattle to expand the group and avoid the ridiculous airfare every time they wanted to play a show to more than fifty people. It was a scrupulous affair at which they debuted their first music video – "My Friend" – with technological difficulty and a delay that allowed the crowd a chance to nurse a few more beers before the boys hit the stage.

Immediately after the video, a well put-together piece produced by Anchorage-based Hybrid Color Films, Indefinate Etticate opened their show with the same song, which gave the impression of Top 40 radio being played over the PA system in a club where the bartenders become confused at the request of a 'pint' and instead hand you a flimsy plastic cup usually reserved for pisswater beer in the bleachers at the ol' ball game.

Before this veritable disaster, a duo called The Real Day Connection opened up the finale show with decent rhymes and an upbeat performance. They drew the biggest crowd of the night, and for a few minutes I felt genuinely glad I went to the show, even if it broke no stereotypes about the seven-foot tall giant in shorts who for some reason feels the need to stand directly in front of the stage, as if he would be missing something from a few feet back. Nevertheless, he served well as the velvet curtain that could have been in front of the headliners for their part.

Pataya Sushi

A local restaurant review
By: Hattie Schmidtknuz

Looking for a good Thai restaurant? Pataya Sushi serves delicious Thai food in a warm and friendly atmosphere. When I came in to Pataya Sushi, I was greeted by the tinkling of the door chime and a very polite server. The restaurant is relatively small, with dark red table cloths, Asian art, and nice music in the background. I ordered salmon sashimi, which is raw salmon. When my food arrived, it came on a wooden board with little legs on it. The arrangement was very attractive. Eight slices of fish with some sort of cabbage on the side. The fish was incredible with wasabi and lemon juice. I had wanted to photograph this culinary masterpiece, but my camera batteries had expired just then. I suddenly had a lovely excuse to come back for lunch again.

On my next visit to Pataya Sushi, I ordered California rolls that contained sushi, rice, seaweed, crab, avocado, cucumber, and tobiko (roe). They were accompanied by a very nice tofu onion soup. Delicious! My check was served with a fortune cookie in a cute dish. My fortune read, "Proceed with confidence. Good fortune awaits."

Pataya Sushi is located in the Meta Rose clock tower in downtown Wasilla. They are open 11am-10pm everyday except Sunday.

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Spring 2011

Registration Begins November 8 - Classes Start January 10

www.matsu.alaska.edu